Flash floods

2785. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRI O.T. LEPCHA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether flash floods caused by heavy rains and cyclonic storm latterly struck Assam and West Bengal;

(b) if so, the loss of human life and property caused thereby; and

(c) the Central aid given for flood relief measures to the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) The cyclone "Aila", which hit coastal areas of West Bengal in May 2009, affected large areas in districts of North 24 Parganas, South 24 Parganas and East Medinipur and the adjoining districts on 25th May, 2009. As per the information received from the Government of West Bengal, 137 human lives lost, 49,994 livestock lost, 4.47 lakh ha. cropped area affected and about 8.95 lakh houses have been fully/partially damaged due to cyclonic storm 'Aila' of May 2009.

The Government of Assam has not reported any damage due to cyclone 'Aila'. However, as per the information received from the State Government, 5 human lives lost, 155 livestock lost, 0.63 lakh ha. cropped area affected and 107 houses have been partially damaged due to flashfloods / floods during South-West Monsoon 2009.

The State Governments are primarily responsible for undertaking relief and rehabilitation measures in the areas affected by natural calamities including cyclone and floods. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments by providing financial and logistic support, where necessary. For execution of relief operations in the wake of natural calamities, a Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) has been constituted, as a ready availability of fund, for each State, corpus of which is contributed by Govt of India and State Govt in the ratio of 75:25. Additional assistance is also provided from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) in the wake of calamities of severe nature.

An amount of Rs. 263.91 crore has been allocated in the CRF for the year 2009-2010 to the State of West Bengal comprising of Rs.197.93 crore as Central share and Rs.65.98 crore as State share. First Installment of the Central share of CRF amounting to Rs. 98.965 crore for the year 2009-10 has been released by the Govt of India on 2nd June, 2009. In response to the memorandum of the State Govt for additional financial assistance, an amount of Rs. 128.28 crore has also been released on 22nd July 2009 for managing damage caused by cyclone 'Aila' landslides from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF).

State of Assam has been allocated an amount of Rs. 217.07 crore in the CRF for the year 2009-2010 comprising of Rs.162.80 crore as Central share and Rs. 54.27 crore as State share. 1st installment of the Central share of CRF amounting to Rs. 81.40 crore for the year 2009-10 has not been released due to non-submission of utilization certificate by the State Government to the Ministry of Finance.

No request/memorandum has been received so far from Govt of Assam for additional financial assistance from NCCF in the wake of flash floods/floods during South West Monsoon 2009.

Persons affected by Aila Cyclone

2786. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of persons affected by the Aila cyclone;

(b) what is the total number of households affected;

(c) whether the West Bengal Government has come up with concrete proposals of constructing concrete dams on the embankments; and

(d) if so, then what is the Central Government planning in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) As per the information received from the State Government, about 63.90 lakh population affected, 137 human lives lost, and about 8.95 lakh houses have been fully/partially damaged due to cyclonic storm 'Aila' of May 2009.

(c) and (d) A Task Force on "Restoration of Sunderbans embankments damaged by the cyclone 'AILA" was constituted on 11th June, 2009 by Ministry of Water Resources (MOWR), Government of India to assess the extent of damage to Sunderbans embankments caused by cyclone 'AILA' and to suggest short-term as well as long-term remedial measures to prevent further breaches and flooding of the areas in future.

In the meeting of the Task Force held on 27.6.2009 at Kolkata; Government of West Bengal submitted preliminary designs and a rough estimate of Rs. 5340.00 crore is projected for completing the short term measures/works within a period of three years. The Government of West Bengal was advised by the Task Force to prepare Detailed Project Report(s) in consultation with Central Water Commission (CWC/ Ganga Flood Control Commission (GFCC) under the guidance of the, Task Force and submit for appraisal to Technical Appraisal Committee of MoWR through GFCC. Thereafter, it would be considered under the State Sector Scheme "Flood Management Programme" (FMP) of MoWR.

Further, Planning Commission has already been approached by MoWR for enhancement of the Plan outlay to Rs.8000 crore with a budget provision of Rs.1500 crore in the current financial year under "FMP" scheme for the above purpose.

Need to amend Private Security Agencies (Regulation) Act, 2005

2787. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY:
SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:
Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 'The Private Security Agencies (Regulation) Act, 2005' and 'The Private Security Agencies Model Rules, 2005' do not guarantee minimum wages, P.F., ESI, Bonus, Leave etc. for private security guards; and